

# The Green Report



## Legislative Update for the 13th District

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### HIGHLIGHTS AND LOWLIGHTS

During the 2006 session, I fought several battles on behalf of the working class--from defending Missourians' right to vote, overtime pay, workplace-safety regulations, and barring employment of illegal aliens, to expanding health care access for small businesses.

I led the charge against legislation that would deteriorate the rights of working Missourians. SB 849 would place restrictions on collective bargaining agreements -- called Project Labor Agreements (PLA). This bill is a direct attack on the middle class in Missouri that would have denied working Missourians the ability to earn a living wage -- a family supporting wage.

Several ideas enjoyed bipartisan support, such as punishing child molesters, bolstering ethanol use to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and help our rural economy and enacting medical malpractice-insurance reform.

In other cases fiscally irresponsible proposals were kept from becoming law, like the governor's 65 percent mandate to erode local control of public schools. Our 524 school districts have diverse needs that are best determined by folks at the local level. The one-size-fits-all plan would have been a poor fit for our children.

The Legislature squandered the opportunity to restore access to health care for thousands of low-income Missourians. The Legislature failed to pass a bill that would have significantly strengthened Missouri's ability to prosecute Medicaid provider fraud and restored the "Ticket to Work" program which would have allowed disabled Missourians to continue working without losing their Medicaid benefits.

Sixteen states are using false claims acts to bring in hundreds of millions of dollars that could be used to provide access to health care for low-income citizens. It is unconscionable that Missouri is not using every tool at its disposal to stop fraud, and at the same time, more than 250,000 low-income citizens have lost Medicaid insurance over the past four years. An estimated \$200 to

\$500 million is lost in Missouri every year due to Medicaid provider fraud.

I successfully amended the ethics bill with one of the most significant reforms in campaign finance. Lawmakers approved a bill to eliminate contribution limits which have not been working since adopted in the early 1990s. The new law will make it easier to determine which special interests are giving to which politicians increasing transparency in our elections.

A key provision in the bill bars monetary contributions from political party committees, which have been a popular conduit for “legal” money funneling to favored candidates. Under the current system, contributors who have given the maximum to a candidate can give money to several party committees that then pass the contribution along to the candidate.

That current system makes it very difficult to determine the original source of a candidate’s money. By prohibiting party committee contributions, allowing individuals to contribute directly to candidates and having stronger reporting requirements, the money trail will be easier to follow. The bill also prohibits candidates for statewide office from accepting campaign contributions during the legislative session.

### **Ensuring that Public Officials and Candidates Have Paid Their Taxes**

I worked to ensure that the people making the laws in Jefferson City are making their tax bills right first. The recent media reports of kick-back schemes and money laundering has tainted this Legislature. I can’t control perceptions based on suspicious consulting relationships and quid pro quo money-for-votes schemes, but I can at least try to make sure that all legislators pay the taxes they owe before they seek election or re-election.

The Elected Official Anti-Tax Evasion Act, a key provision included in the ethics bill which passed, will disqualify potential candidates and current officials seeking re-election from running for office if they had any delinquent local and state taxes, including, but not limited to, income, personal, real estate, and/or business taxes. Candidates will be required to sign an affidavit with the Missouri Department of Revenue declaring under the penalty of perjury that they owe no taxes. We are Missourians first and legislators second and we expect our fellow citizens to pay their taxes on time, so we must demand of ourselves that we do the same.



### **Ensuring the Right to Vote**

The Senate passed a contentious bill requiring photo identification to vote, while eliminating the ability to cast a straight-party ballot. Passage of the measure - which faced intense opposition from me and many of my colleagues - came only after the Senate leadership took

a rare step of cutting off debate and forcing a vote at 1:30 a.m. on the final day. The use of the parliamentary procedure has been used only on seven occasions in the Missouri Senate since 1970.

SB 1014 will require voters to show a state-issued photo ID at the polls this November. The stated purpose of the bill is to combat “voter fraud.” However, this proposal would disenfranchise some of Missouri’s most vulnerable citizens in an attempt to fix a nonexistent problem. Election officials from both parties agree that voter misrepresentation simply does not exist at the polling place.

Nearly 200,000 Missourians who are registered voters do not have state-issued photo IDs. Disenfranchising our most vulnerable citizens for partisan gain is un-American. This new requirement negatively affects seniors and the AARP was among several groups strongly against its passage.

### **Protecting Seniors’ Retirement and Investments**

Working closely with Secretary of State Robin Carnahan, I introduced the Senior Investor Protection Act that would discourage securities fraud against senior and disabled investors by increasing the minimum penalties for fraudulent acts committed against senior citizens and the disabled.

This act provided necessary protection since more than 75 percent of fraud victims are seniors according to the National Center on Elder Abuse. The measure would implement stiffer penalties that included a minimum \$50,000 fine and imprisonment of five years to those who commit securities fraud against seniors and the disabled. It defined a senior as someone 60 years of age or older and a disabled person as “a person with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such individual.” If a defendant is convicted under our state’s current securities laws, he/she will be subject to the same penalties—a fine of up to \$1 million, up to ten years in jail, or both—regardless of whom he/she defrauds. This situation ignores that the elderly and those with disabilities are often specifically targeted by investment scams. Moreover, the current law does not contemplate a minimum required jail sentence, regardless of the type of fraud.

This act recognized that fraudsters prey upon those who are more vulnerable. Therefore, the proposal stated that, when a defendant has been convicted of securities fraud against an elderly person or person with disabilities, that defendant may be fined not less than \$50,000 and imprisoned not less than five years. The effect of this wording is to establish sentencing minimums: in effect, Missouri will now say to scam artists, “If you defraud seniors or those with disabilities, you will go to jail and pay at least a \$50,000 fine.” The act also



authorized ordering a person who has violated the act to pay restitution. This provision was especially important to seniors who often lose their retirement savings to those committing investment fraud and I intend to pursue passage of the same provisions next year.

### **Tax Relief for Middle Class Families**

I introduced Senate Bill 670 which creates an income tax deduction for higher education expenses. In order to qualify, the student or taxpayer claiming a student as a dependent, must have a federal adjusted gross income of less than \$200,000 regardless of whether the taxpayer files a joint or single return and the educational expenses must be incurred by a student registered at least half time.

Providing higher education at an affordable price has become increasingly difficult with recent state budget pressures and large decreases in state funding. Average tuition for Missouri's four-year public colleges and universities is the highest among the Big 12 states and second highest among the contiguous 48 states.

Missouri can do better – a national report ranked Missouri's recent tuition increases among the highest in the nation. Middle class families desperately need tax relief. The income tax deduction is estimated to cost the state's general revenue \$27 million – that is \$27 million dollars that students and parents can spend achieving their goal of earning a degree at a public university or college. Tuition has increased 48 percent at the University of Missouri-St. Louis over the past five years and students and working families have been hit by similar increases at nearly every public university or college in Missouri.



### **Protecting People with Mental Disabilities and Helping Missouri Veterans**

In response to a revealing audit by State Auditor Claire McCaskill, I called on my colleagues to pass Senate Bill 986 to protect the mentally disabled in private facilities. The legislation would require the private, loosely regulated facilities to be held to the same standards of care as state-run habilitation centers. The private group home industry needs to be held to the same standards, review and oversight as the state-run facilities, which are required to meet certain standards by the federal government.

SB 986, sponsored by me, and HB 1848, sponsored by Rep. Joe Aull and co-sponsored by Rep. Gina Walsh, came in response to the wave of media reports last fall of private group home problems. In recent months a series of news accounts and state audits have revealed serious abuse and neglect in privately

operated facilities for the developmentally disabled. Deficiencies included poorly trained and supervised staff, scant reporting requirements and a lack of accountability. The state has been forcing habilitation center residents into private facilities this past year.

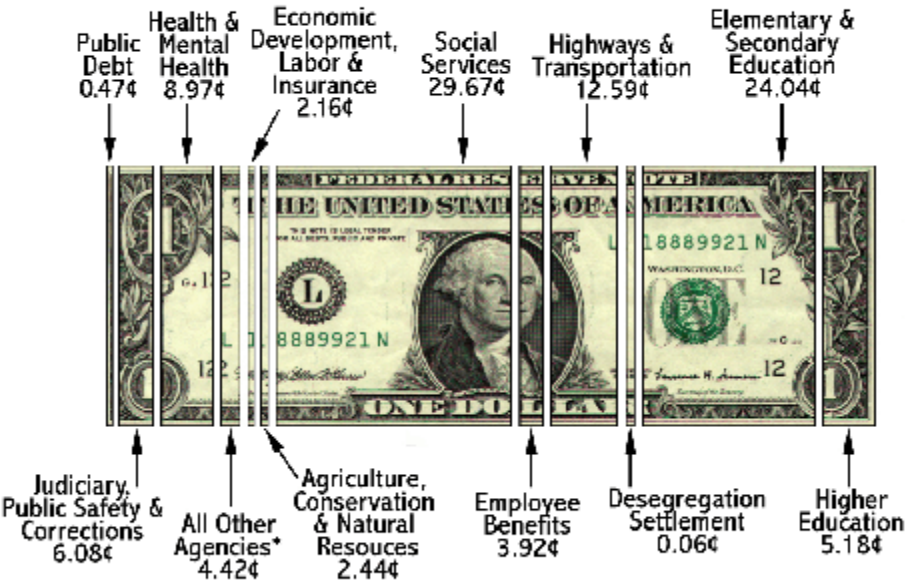
Bellefontaine Habilitation Center will remain open with a capital improvement plan for the complex including a new paved road. The FY 2007 budget appropriates \$20,640,208 for the continued operation of Bellefontaine.

I was successful in increasing pay for registered nurses at the St. Louis Veterans' Home in Bellefontaine Neighbors to help keep up with the salaries in the private sector. I fought for Missouri veterans during the 2006 budget writing process by fighting to increase funding for the 1,000 veterans who are currently on awaiting list for placement in Missouri's veterans' homes. There are currently

# Where the Money Goes...

158 vacant beds in our veterans' homes due to lack of staffing. We need to increase funding for veterans services and eliminate the waiting list. Veterans should not have to wait to be cared for.

**Distribution of Each Tax Dollar**  
FY 2007 Missouri Operating Budget  
All Funds: \$20.819 Billion



\*Revenue. Office of Administration, Elected Officials, General Assembly, Leasing

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## **Senator Green's 2006 Legislation**

**SB 620** – Strengthens Missouri's prevailing wage ensuring a living wage for Missouri workers

**SB 621** – Increases private mental health facilities oversight protecting people with mental disabilities

**SB 622** – Creates a 100% income tax deduction for health insurance costs for small businesses and farmers that provide health insurance coverage for their employees

**SB 670** – Creates a 100% income tax deduction for higher education expenses for parents and/or student taxpayers

**SB 671** – Requires any applicant for health care benefits from a public assistance program to identify his or her employer thus discovering costs

**SB 672** – Ensures fair and responsible use of Missouri tax increment financing

**SB 772** – Levels the playfield between corporations and taxpayers by repealing timely file discount for sales tax remittance

**SB 853** – Provides for mandatory minimum punishment for securities fraud crimes against the elderly or disabled

**SB 854** – Creates the "Public Service Accountability Act"

**SB 887** – Removes certain limits on campaign contributions promoting transparency of campaign contributions

**SB 928** – Bars employers from misclassifying employees as independent contractors to curb hiring of illegal aliens

**SB 929** – Amends requirements for workers' compensation benefit payments to help healthcare providers recover costs

**SB 930** – Establishes the "Office of Trade Enforcement" and the "Citizen's Commission on Globalization"

**SB 966** – Bars certain government agencies from hiring private lobbyists to lobby other government agencies

**SB 967** – Changes overtime eligibility requirements promoting a living wage for Missouri workers

**SB 968** – Ensures no overlapping of fire protection districts, departments, and volunteer associations

**SB 986** – Increases oversight and accountability of mental health facilities and group homes for the mentally retarded and developmentally disabled

**SB 987** – Honors Missouri State Trooper Ralph Tatoian by naming a portion of

I-44 in St. Louis County as the "Trooper Ralph Tatoian Memorial Highway"

**SB 988** – Bars hiring of illegal aliens on public works projects

**SB 1034** – Amends the laws relating to the practice of professional counselors

**SB 1129** – Ensures real estate agents disclose the occupancy limit to home buyers

**SB 1130** – Restores voluntary membership on fourth-class city boards

## **Senate Bills That Passed This Year**

**SB 558** – Removes the termination date for experimental tariffs put in place by the Public Service Commission and gas corporations for schools

**SB 559** – Considers any municipality, governmental unit, or public corporation created under the laws of any state or the United States a person

**SB 561** – Limits the amount of revenue expenditures from gaming boat admission fees

**SB 567** – Modifies provisions relating to health insurance

**SB 578** – Prohibits protest activities during funeral services

**SB 580** – Requires collaboration between certain departments in order to achieve a more efficient and effective educational system

**SB 583** – Establishes a decentralized emission inspection program which utilizes on-board diagnostic testing on certain motor vehicles

**SB 612** – Authorizes the conveyance of property owned by the state in St. Francois County to the Farmington American Legion Post 416

**SB 614** – Creates an income tax credit for contributions to residential treatment agencies

**SB 616** – Prescribes requirements for assisted living facilities

**SB 618** – Provides that electronic access cards may be issued to

custodial parents for disbursement of child support payments

**SB 630** – Modifies eligibility requirements for the Homestead Preservation Tax Credit

**SB 641** – Requires all contributions to the Missouri Higher Education Savings Program be held for twelve months

**SB 645** – Modifies the Missouri Business Use Incentive for Large-Scale Development Act

**SB 648** – Replaces the term "lunatic asylum" with "mental health facility" in statute about fire escapes and stairs

**SB 650** – Specifies terms of office and eligibility criteria for the governing board of Missouri State University

**SB 667** – Designates several portions of highways within Missouri after Missouri highway patrolmen

**SB 677** – Removes references to the Committee on Radiation Control from Chapter 192, RSMo

**SB 678** – Repeals the quarterly tax collections report requirement for temporary tax collection

**SB 701** – Modifies educational assistance benefits for Missouri National Guard members

**SB 718** – Modifies the authority of the Development Finance Board to grant loans

**SB 725** – Alters provisions regarding alcoholic beverages

**SB 747** – Requires used car dealers to complete educational seminars in order to obtain a license

**SB 749** – Modifies minimum experience requirements for interior designer registration

**SB 751** – Allows the City of Corder to sell property purchased from the school district for any purpose after twenty-five years

**SB 756** – Modifies requirements for licensing and registration of certain professionals

**SB 765** – Enacts provisions relating to emergency medical treatment

**SB 769** – Permits school districts meeting certain criteria to make a one-time additional fund transfer and to reduce their school terms

**SB 778** – Requires proof of payment of personal property taxes on certain vessels, raises vessel fees and creates the "Missouri State Water Patrol Fund"

**SB 785** – Allows any jailer to serve an arrest warrant on a person who is already an inmate in the custody of the jailer

**SB 802** – Defines the terms "owner", "registered voter" and "voter" when used in provisions about certain sewer districts

**SB 809** – Provides municipalities the option of adopting the zoning regulations of the county in lieu of their own

**SB 819** – Modifies licensure requirements for professional engineers and land surveyors

**SB 822** – Extends FRA, Pharmacy Tax, Nursing Facility reimbursement allowance, and Medicaid managed care reimbursement allowance sunsets

**SB 825** – Creates the "Kansas and Missouri Regional Investment District Compact" to promote public transit projects within the Kansas City metropolitan area

**SB 828** – Repeals the sunset

provision for dental hygienists

**SB 830** – Changes provisions regarding military leave for Kansas City police officers and civilian employees

**SB 834** – Alters various provisions of the state's special education policy

**SB 837** – Modifies membership of various governing bodies that administer state insurance programs

**SB 840** – Modifies the highway and bridge naming process and allows the Highway Commission to dispose of excess real property under certain conditions

**SB 845** – Modifies fees and reinstatement processes in the event of corporate administrative dissolution

**SB 863** – Modifies definition of "volunteer fire protection association"

**SB 870** – Transfers responsibility for existing appropriation payments from the Office of Administration to other state agencies

**SB 871** – Modifies provisions regarding distribution payments in the St. Louis Police Retirement System

**SB 872** – Enacts various provisions relating to the safe operation of motor vehicles to ensure the safety of highway workers, emergency workers and other motorists

**SB 881** – Authorizes the Governor to convey state property to St. Francois County

**SB 892** – Modifies law relating to financial institutions

**SB 893** – Modifies provisions relating to taxes for emergency services and fire protection

**SB 894** – Renders multiple alterations to the state's education policy

**SB 900** – Modifies provisions on the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Fund

**SB 912** – Establishes a virtual school program

**SB 919** – Repeals the statute



permitting the city council of a third-class city to prohibit the carrying of concealed weapons

**SB 931** – Gives property owners one vote per acre when electing directors for a transportation development district

**SB 932** – Modifies laws relating to county officials

**SB 933** – Transfers the duty of appointing railroad policemen from the Highway Patrol to the Director of the Department of Public Safety

**SB 934** – Creates a grace period for barber shop licensure when the establishment changes ownership or location

**SB 936** – Allows county library boards to issue bonds for up to 5% of the value of property within the district instead of 1 percent

**SB 964** -- Modifies provisions regarding the appointment and duties of assistant adjutants general

**SB 974** – Extends date for the Department of Mental Health to complete mental health services plans for persons on wait lists

**SB 980** – Modifies the student loan program for nursing students

**SB 981** – Allows a Highway Patrol member to accept other employment under a general order issued by the Superintendent

**SB 990** -- Designates various sections of state highways after law enforcement

**SB 1001** – Modifies lawful presence requirements for driver's licenses, modifies graduated driver's license law and allows the Highway Commission to revoke licenses and registrations of motor carriers in certain circumstances

**SB 1002** – Allows the imposition of an additional fee for drainage districts

**SB 1003** – Authorizes Governor to convey state property

**SB 1008** – Creates the "Governor's Advisory Council on Agricultural

Science and Technology"

**SB 1014** – Modifies law relating to election administration

**SB 1016** – Requires county commissions to set tax rates by September 20

**SB 1017** – Makes the State Milk Board the official rating agency for the enforcement of milk production standards

**SB 1020** – Requires anyone who manufactures, installs, or repairs fuel storage tanks or piping for such tanks to maintain evidence of financial responsibility to cover the costs of corrective action after a fuel release

**SB 1023** – Modifies the laws relating to DNA Profiling Analysis and resulting restitution

**SB 1026** – Authorizes the Lieutenant Governor to administer certain veterans' programs and funds

**SB 1045** – Provides that the statute of limitations for recovery of lands does not extend to lands held by public utilities

**SB 1056** – Modifies the method of how community improvement districts may impose sales taxes

**SB 1057** – Includes physical therapists in the definition of health practitioner for the purposes of liens

**SB 1059** – Designates a portion of I-55 in St. Louis County as the "Officer Thomas G. Smith Jr. Memorial Highway"

**SB 1060** – Modifies provisions regarding the tax contribution designation for the Missouri Military Family Relief Fund

**SB 1066** – Provides certain telecommunication companies the opportunity to request a waiver from the requirement that tariffs be filed to reduce rates for any service in which the current rate exceeds the maximum allowable price

**SB 1084** – Extends the sunset date for the Healthcare for Uninsured Children Program and non-Medicaid

eligible personal care services

**SB 1086** – Grants the St. Louis Board of Police Commissioners the authority to establish police officer salaries without prior authorization from the General Assembly

**SB 1094** – Allows Springfield to dissolve a special business district

**SB 1117** – Modifies provisions of the Missouri Rx Plan Advisory Commission

**SB 1122** – Allows certain state universities to convey or transfer, except in fee simple, the title or interest in real property

**SB 1139** – Designates portion of Highway 21 from the intersection of Lindbergh Avenue to the intersection of Gravois Road in St. Louis County as the "Sergeant William McEntee Memorial Highway"

**SB 1146** – Modifies the process for review of an administrative agency's decisions

**SB 1155** – Modifies provisions on the technical advisory committee on the quality of patient care and nursing practices

**SB 1165** – Extends the fees imposed under the water pollution statutes until December 31, 2009

**SB 1177** – Allows local registrar to be an employee of either a county or city health agency

**SB 1189** – Creates the "Holocaust Education and Awareness Commission"

**SB 1197** – Allows sixteen-year olds to donate blood with parental permission

**SB 1207** – Allows New Madrid County to impose an additional sales tax, which proceeds shall be shared among the county and the cities, towns and villages within the county

**SB 1208** – Modifies law allowing corporations to amend their articles of incorporation

**SB 1216** – Modifies the law relating to travel clubs

**SB 1229** – Creates a tax credit for children in crisis

**SJR 26** – If approved by voters, exempts property owned by veterans' organizations from taxation

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## Gubernatorial Appointments for the 13th District



*Eric V. Barnhart (above) was appointed to the Public Defender Commission and Mary E. Edwards-Fears (right) was appointed to the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission.*



*Senior citizens visit with Senator Green during their annual tour of the State Capitol. For information on the 2007 Tour-contact Senator Green's St. Louis office at 314-839-2892.*

# North County Road Projects



- ◆ **Rte. 370 Pavement Repair.** The 12-mile corridor will undergo pavement repair. Although located on Rte. 370, the project extends from I-70 in St. Peters to west of the I-270 interchange in Bridgeton. Lane closures will be on both eastbound and westbound lanes until the project is complete. Construction should be complete by fall 2006. Repairing the pavement will cost \$34 million.
- ◆ **Rte. D Bridge East Of I-170.** Crews are working to replace the Rte. D (Page Ave.) bridge over the Terminal Railroad in Overland. Lane closures may be in place during the day for construction work. The bridge is restricted to one lane in each direction. All work is expected to be complete by mid-November 2006.
- ◆ **I-170 / Olive, Rebuild Interchanges.** One lane will be closed permanently during construction on I-170 and Olive from Fall 2006 to 2008. Additional lane closed during non-rush hour time period.
- ◆ **Rte. D, Terminal RR just east of 170, Bridge Replacement.** One lane will be closed in both directions during construction which is scheduled to begin April 2006 and end October 2006.
- ◆ **I-270 / I-70, Joint Replacement on Ramps.** The flyover ramps on northbound I-270 to westbound I-70 and southbound I-270 to eastbound I-70 are in need of joint replacements. There will be ramp closures on off-peak times and weekends during construction. The I-70 bridge over I-270 will receive deck improvements that will require off-peak lane closures.
- ◆ **I-270 from I-70 to I-170 Resurfacing.** The roadway from I-70 to I-170 will be resurfaced during night hours. Construction is scheduled to begin summer 2006.
- ◆ **Southbound I-170 South of the I-270 Interchange.** A merge lane will be added at southbound I-170 just south of the I-270 interchange. Merging into this lane will allow traffic full access of the two lane ramp that already exists. Construction of the new merge lane will begin spring 2007.
- ◆ **I-70 West Interchange to Rte. 67 West Interchange.** Diamond grinding and striping of the total length of the improvement being 2.3 miles. Project cost is \$240,000. Completion date of November 2006.
- ◆ **Railroad Bridge over Rte. 67 North of Lambert Airport, Bridge Replacement.** The railroad bridge over Rte. 67 north of Lambert Airport will be replaced and the roadway widened. Construction begins spring 2007.
- ◆ **Lindbergh at Lindsay/Patterson Project.** Adding right turns and merging lanes along southbound Lindbergh Blvd. (Route 67) through the Lindsay Lane and Patterson Road intersections.
- ◆ **Rte. 367 Update:** Lewis and Clark Bridge from St. Louis to St. Charles (leads to Alton), Deck replacement & rehabilitation. One lane will be permanently closed in both directions during construction began in May 2006 and should be complete December 2006. Additional lane closure during non-rush hour periods.



*St. Rose  
Philippine  
Duchesne,  
8th Grade*



*Brown Elementary, 4th Grade*



*Jamestown Elementary, 4th Grade*



*St. Angela Merici Elementary, 7th Grade*



*Robinwood Elementary, 4th Grade*